

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SY-04 USSS-00

SCCT-02 A-01 OPR-02 NIC-01 EB-12 SCA-01 AID-05 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1687

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0309

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4126

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: HUTCHISON CASE: MEETING WITH MSGR. POLANCO

1. AT 8:30 THIS MORNING I MET WITH MSGR. POLANCO. SINCE HE IS AND WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT AND INFLUENTIAL ELEMENT OF DOMINICAN SOCIETY, I TOOK PAINS TO REASSURE HIM THAT I REGRETTED HIS BRISK REMOVAL FROM THE PICTURE AND THAT WE HAD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT. I REVIEWED WITH HIM HIS PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF MENDEZ VARGAS AND THE CONVERSATIONS HE HAD HELD WITH HIM SINCE THE KIDNAPPING, IN ORDER TO GLEAN ANY NEW INSIGHTS AND TO ASCERTAIN THAT OUR INFORMATION WAS COMPLETE. ESSENTIALLY NOTHING NEW EMERGED.

2. I ASKED MSGR. POLANCO HOW HE THOUGHT THIS PROBLEM MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE SOLVED. HE REPLIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAT THE TERRORISTS SURRENDER TO THE DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES UNDER
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GUARANTEE THAT THEIR LIVES WOULD NOT BE JEOPARDIZED AND THAT

THEY WOULD NOT BE MALTREATED, IN TURN GUARANTEED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE NATIONS WHOSE NATIONALS WERE INVOLVED, WOULD NEVER BE ACCEPTED BY THE CAPTORS. HE SAID THAT THE TERRORISTS WERE THOROUGHLY DISTRUSTFUL OF GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES. HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT THE GODR BE PERSUADED TO RELAX ITS POSITION TO THE POINT THEY WOULD GUARANTEE THE SAFE CONDUCT OF THE TERRORISTS OUT OF THE COUNTRY. I REPLIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT POSITION AS GIVEN TO HIM EARLIER SEEMED PRETTY FIRM. SPEAKING THEORETICALLY, I SAID, ASSUMING THE GODR AT SOME POINT FOUND IT NECESSARY TO MOVE TO THE POSITION HE SUGGESTED, I INQUIRED WHETHER HE THOUGHT MENDEZ VARGAS AND HIS COMRADES WOULD ACCEPT SUCH AN OFFER. POLANCO REFLECTED AND THEN SAID IN HIS OPINION HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD, EVENTUALLY. HE STRESSED THAT IT WAS A PERSONAL JUDGMENT.

3. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF KEEPING THE TERRORISTS IN CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND THE NEED TO PROVIDE BATTERIES FOR THEIR RADIO, I HAPPENED TO MENTION THAT WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT TYPE BATTERIES WERE NEEDED. POLANCO THEN RECALLED THAT IN A LETTER FROM MISS ARES, A HOSTAGE, TO HER FATHER, SHE HAD MENTIONED THAT THE RADIO WAS GIVING OUT AND HAD DESCRIBED THE TYPE OF BATTERY REQUIRED. AS A RESULT OF THIS INFORMATION, MY VENEZUELAN COLLEAGUE OBTAINED THE DATA FROM MR. ARES AND PURCHASED THE BATTERIES WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE FOOD AND WATER DELIVERED THIS AFTERNOON.

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